

Ask govt to file detailed report

Bar Council appeals to HC on blasts probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council advocate Zi Khan Panna yesterday appealed to the High Court (HC) to direct the government to submit more detailed progress reports to the HC on the investigations into the recent bombattacks.

Earlier the HC ordered the government to submit progress reports every two weeks on the

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BNP lawmaker beats college student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A local MP of the ruling BNP yesterday beat a college student for refusing to pay an extra amount of "examination centre fee" charged by his college.

MP Shahidul Alam Talukder beat Debasish Das, a degree examinee of Baful Degree College, on the college campus at around 1:30pm as he denied to pay the extra fee of Tk 225 fixed by the college authority for the degree exams beginning tomorrow.

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REUTERS, Karbala

Two suicide bombers killed at least 120 people and wounded more than 200 in the Iraqi cities of Karbala and Ramadi yesterday, the second consecutive day of concerted insurgent attacks.

The assault in Karbala was the

second in the city in as many days

and happened within sight of the golden dome of the Imam Hussein shrine, one of the holiest sites in Shia Islam.

Another three bombs exploded in Baghdad, two of them detonated by suicide bombers, and a roadside bomb targeted a US convoy near

Najaf, killing two American soldiers and two civilians.

Besides, five US soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb hit their vehicle while on patrol in Baghdad, the US military said.

The latest bloodshed appeared certain to ratchet up tension

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FRESH VOTER LIST

14-party rally asks PM to stop process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition coalition yesterday urged the prime minister to stop preparation of a fresh voter list now.

At a rally in front of the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, they also demanded resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MAAziz.

The 14-party organised the rally demanding inquiry into and justice of all grenade and bomb attacks in the country including the one of August 21, 2004 on an AL

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Voter listing continues ignoring HC directives

EC Secretariat says order's copy yet to reach; jurists warn of contempt possibility

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Amid clamour and confusion reigning the voter roll-making scenario, the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday continued the work ignoring Wednesday's High Court directives to revise the existing roll.

Already mired deep in contro-

versy, the ongoing voter listing process may face further difficulties with the EC Secretariat continuing the task despite the directives, many fear.

The EC Secretariat did not explain the court's guidelines to the field-level personnel recruited controversially. It rather directed them to continue the work.

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Suicide bombing near Imam Hussein's shrine

50 die; another attack on cops-army kills 70; roadside bombs kill 7 US soldiers in Iraq

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Bangladesh ranks 141st in economic freedom index

Worst in Saarc, says study

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been ranked 141st among 161 countries in the 2006 Index of Economic Freedom published by the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation, a US-based research group.

The country, which scored 3.88 points, was also placed in the third of the four categories -- free, mostly free, mostly unfree and repressed -- in terms of economic freedom.

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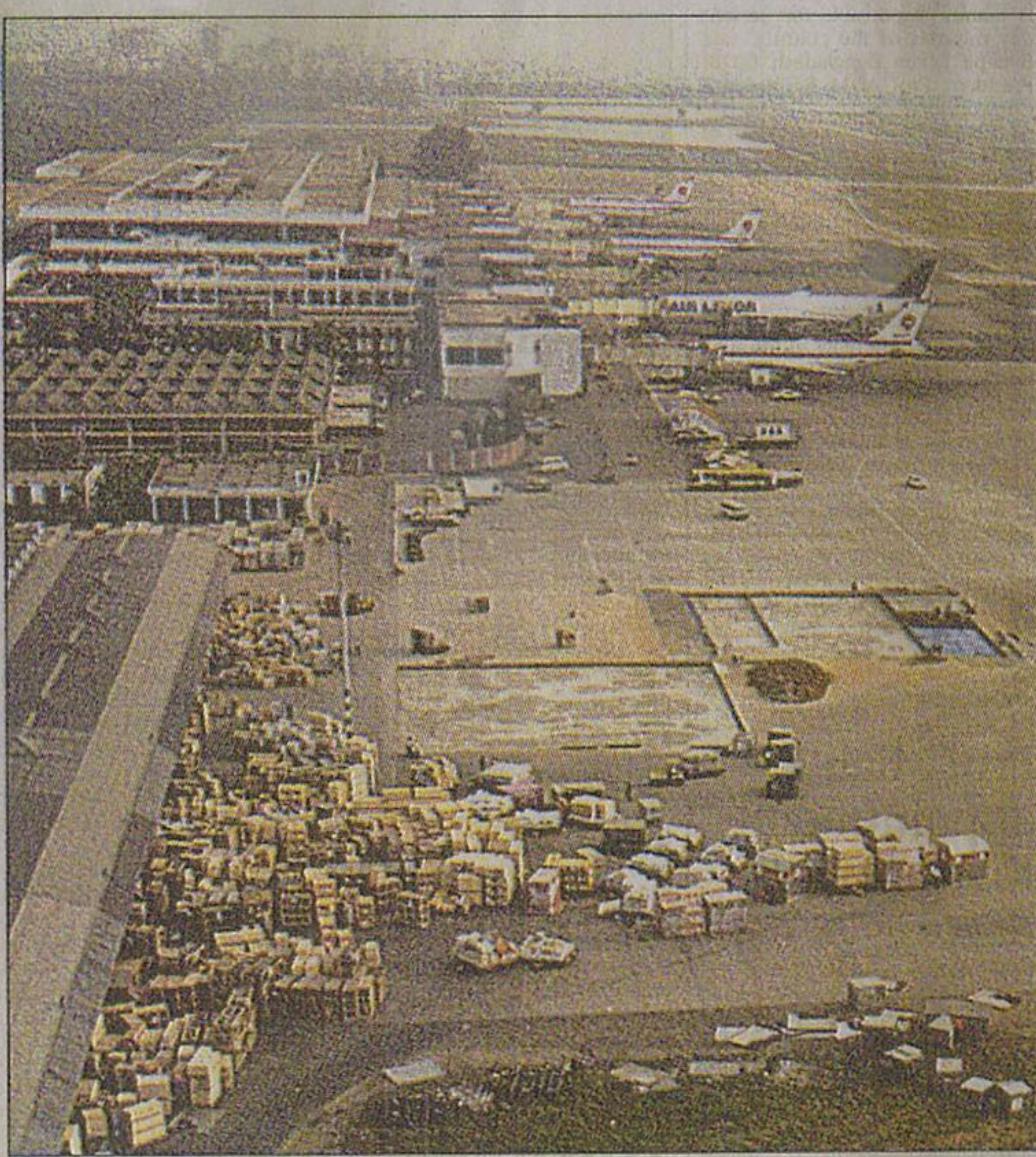
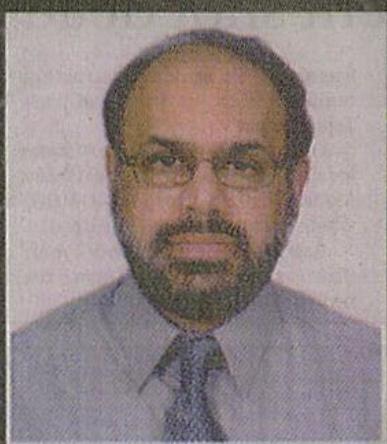


PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Imported capital and consumer goods lie in the open in a haphazard fashion at the cargo terminal of Zia International Airport. The photograph was snapped on December 19 last.

We Mourn



We express our great grief and deep shock at the sudden demise of our beloved eldest brother Dr. Sultan Mahmud Reza (50) on 30th December, 2005 at King Khaled University Hospital in Saudi Arabia due to cerebral haemorrhage. (Innah Lillahi.....Rajeun). Dr. Reza was working as a Consultant Physician in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at King Khaled University Hospital, KSA. At his untimely demise we, our mother and other family members, have lost a great father figure, friend as well as a guardian, who till his last breath supported, guided and loved us all unselfishly with pride.

All relatives, friends, acquaintances and well wishers are requested to pray for peace of his departed soul and that Almighty Allah may give our beloved brother a place in Jannat-ul-Ferdous. We also pray so that Allah gives his wife, children and all of us the strength to bear this loss.

Friends and all are requested to attend the Qulhani of our brother on Sunday, 8th January 2006 after Magrib prayer at his Gulshan residence at "Malancha", House # 1/C Road # 35, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.

Hasan Mahmud Raja
Akther Mahmud Rana &
Fatema Rashid Hasan Ruma (loving Siblings).

On behalf of our mother Sultana Rashid, and our respected spouses and the children.

Militant den busted

Firearms, huge grenade making materials seized; two held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) last night busted a militants' den at Moinartek in city's Uttara and seized five shotguns and materials that can be used to make a huge number of firearms, bombs and grenades.

The elite anticrime force also arrested two cadres of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). One believed to be an ehsaas[a full-time activist] introduced himself as Habib while the identity of the other one could not be known immediately.

The seized materials that include 24kg of explosives, gunpowder and safety pins can be used for making some 1,200 grenades

and 100 grenade-heads, Rab bomb experts said.

The law enforcers also found five shotguns, bullet-making instruments and materials that can be used in making at least 21 shotguns, four pistols, apart from some 100 Islami books and laboratory equipment.

The den was situated at a house in Courtbari of Moinartek. Three months ago, a youth rented the house, said the owner of the house.

As the youth had not returned to the place for the last couple of weeks, the landlord had recently informed Rab of him.

A team of Rab, who had been keeping an eye on the area, yesterday held Habib when he was about

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6TH ENTRANT TO MOBILE BUSINESS Warid Telecom eyes supremacy in 3-5 yrs

ABU SAED KHAN

Dubai-based Warid Telecom, which last month secured the sixth cellphone operating licence in Bangladesh, plans to climb to the top of the sector by the next three to five years.

According to its internal documents, the new entrant's initial plan is to acquire over 14 million customers in four phases by December 2007.

First, it will launch services in 26 districts with an aim to net 2.8 million subscribers by October 2006.

In the second phase ending in January 2007, its plan is to expand the service coverage to 22 more districts, targeting 3.1 million fresh

customers.

In the third phase, 13 more districts will come under its network by March 2007 with an aim to enlarge its subscriber base by 3.35 million.

Warid will cover the rest of the country in the fourth, and last, step ending in December 2007, during which it expects to add 5 million new clients.

Industry insiders say Warid will have to overcome the unfriendly weather from April to September as well as the looming political unrest in the run-up to the national elections slated for January 2007 to carry out its aggressive network roll-out plan.

In order to triumph over these

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WE ARE NOW NEARER TO YOU

We have opened
18 Branches in 2005

1	Ramganj, Lakhsmipur
2	Faridganj, Chandpur
3	Kulaura, Moulavi Bazar
4	Jal Dhaka, Nilphamari
5	Gouripur, Comilla
6	Shyampur, Dhaka
7	Netrokona
8	Bank Road, Choumuhan, Noakhali
9	Meherpur
10	Narail
11	Rohanpur, Chapainawabgonj
12	Poradaha, Kushtia
13	Swandip, Chittagong
14	Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Dhaka
15	Fatikchhari, Chittagong
16	Banchharampur, Brahmanbaria
17	Tekerhat, Madaripur
18	Torki Bandar, Barisal

Total number of our Branches now stands at

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GrameenPhone Victory Day Cup Golf Tournament '06

Date: 6-7 January 2006

Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: Station Officers Mess-C, Savar Cantonment



GrameenPhone